

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Added text is indicated by underlining, and deleted text is indicated by ~~striketrough~~. Changes are identified by a vertical bar in the margin.

- 1 1. (previously presented) A pill box comprising:
2 a base having a pill cutting surface;
3 a lid connected to the base, the lid having a blade; and
4 a retractable blade guard engaging the lid such that movement of the lid alone is
5 directly translated into movement of the blade guard.
- 1 2. (Original) The pill box of claim 1, wherein the blade guard comprises a
2 flexible strip of material that is substantially impermeable to the blade.
- 1 3. (Original) The pill box of claim 2, wherein the blade guard comprises a
2 plastic material.
- 1 4. (Original) The pill box of claim 2, wherein the blade guard comprises
2 metallic material.
- 1 5. (Original) The pill box of claim 1, wherein the lid and base are connected
2 by a hinge.
- 1 6. (previously presented) A pill box comprising:
2 a base having a pill cutting surface;
3 a lid connected to the base, the lid having a blade; and
4 a retractable blade guard secured to the base and engaging the lid, wherein the lid
5 comprises a cam, and wherein the blade guard is threaded over the cam.

1 7. (Original) The pill box of claim 6, wherein the blade guard is retractable
2 such that it covers the blade when the lid is open and retracts to expose the blade when the lid is
3 closed.

1 8. (Original) The pill box of claim 1, wherein the base further comprises a
2 pill grip comprising a first holding arm and a second holding arm for adjustably centering a pill
3 on the pill cutting surface into alignment with the blade.

1 9. (Original) The pill box of claim 8, wherein the first holding arm
2 comprises a first portion that is rigidly coupled to the pill cutting surface and a second region that
3 is flexibly coupled to the first portion, and wherein the second holding arm comprises a first
4 portion that is rigidly coupled to the pill cutting surface and a second portion that is flexibly
5 coupled to the first portion, the first portion of the first holding arm parallel to the first portion of
6 the second holding arm, the second portion of the first holding arm and the second portion of the
7 second holding arm inwardly biased toward one another.

1 10. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 1, wherein a top side of the lid
2 comprises a thumb press portion.

1 11. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 1, wherein a retention lip extends from
2 a distal end of the base for holding the base in position while opening and closing the lid.

1 12. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 1, wherein the lid comprises a
2 proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being connected to the base, and the distal end
3 having an opening with a pill container fitted therein, the pill container fitted through the opening
4 and connected by one or more hinges to the lid.

1 13. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 12, wherein the pill container
2 comprises a spherical wedge shape.

1 14. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 1, further comprising a programmable
2 pill counter integrated with the lid.

1 15. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 1, further comprising a programmable
2 pill counter integrated with the base.

1 16. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 1, wherein the base comprises a
2 cavity, and the lid comprises a corresponding protuberance that is sized to fill the cavity when
3 the lid is closed against the base, wherein a pill that is placed in the cavity is crushed when the
4 lid is closed against the base.

1 17. (previously presented) A pill box comprising:
2 a base comprising a bottom side and a top side, the top side having a pill storage
3 compartment, a pill cutting surface, and a pill grip coupled to the pill cutting surface;
4 a lid having a top side and a bottom side, the bottom side having a blade coupled
5 thereto, wherein the lid is coupled to the base by one or more hinges;
6 a retractable blade guard configured such that movement of the lid alone relative
7 to the base is directly translated into movement of the blade guard.

1 18. (Original) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the blade guard comprises a
2 flexible strip of material that is substantially impermeable to the blade.

1 19. (previously presented) A pill box comprising:
2 a base comprising a bottom side and a top side, the top side having a pill storage
3 compartment, a pill cutting surface, and a pill grip coupled to the pill cutting surface;
4 a lid having a top side and a bottom side, the bottom side having a blade coupled
5 thereto, wherein the lid is coupled to the base by one or more hinges;
6 a retractable blade guard coupled at one end to the bottom side of the base,
7 wherein the lid comprises a cam, and wherein the blade guard is threaded over the
8 cam.

1 20. (Original) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the blade guard comprises a
2 plastic material.

1 21. (Original) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the blade guard comprises
2 metallic material.

1 22. (Original) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the blade guard is retractable
2 such that it covers the blade when the lid is open and retracts to expose the blade when the lid is
3 closed.

1 23. (Original) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the bottom side of the lid
2 comprises a first wall having a channel formed along its length and a second wall with a channel
3 formed along its length, wherein the first and second walls run parallel with the each other and
4 the blade, and wherein the channels face each other.

1 24. (Original) The pill box of claim 23, wherein the channels in the first and
2 second walls receive the blade guard.

1 25. (Original) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the lid comprises one or
2 more finger grips with raised ribs, and wherein the base comprises one or more finger grips with
3 raised ribs.

1 26. (Original) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the one or more finger grips
2 on the lid are proximal the one or more finger grips on the base when the lid is closed against the
3 base.

1 27. (Original) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the one or more finger grips
2 on the lid are distal the one or more finger grips on the base when the lid is closed against the
3 base.

1 28. (Original) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the pill grip comprises a first
2 holding arm and a second holding arm for adjustably centering a pill on the pill cutting surface
3 into alignment with the blade.

1 29. (Original) The pill box of claim 28, wherein the first holding arm
2 comprises a first portion that is rigidly coupled to the pill cutting surface and a second region that
3 is flexibly coupled to the first portion, and wherein the second holding arm comprises a first
4 portion that is rigidly coupled to the pill cutting surface and a second portion that is flexibly
5 coupled to the first portion, the first portion of the first holding arm parallel to the first portion of
6 the second holding arm, the second portion of the first holding arm and the second portion of the
7 second holding arm inwardly biased toward one another.

1 30. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the top side of the lid
2 comprises a thumb press portion.

1 31. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 17, wherein a retention lip extends
2 from a distal end of the base for holding the base in position while opening and closing the lid.

1 32. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 17, further comprising a
2 programmable pill monitoring timer integrated with the lid.

1 33. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 17, wherein the top side of the base
2 comprises a cavity, and the bottom side of the lid comprises a corresponding protuberance that is
3 sized to fill the cavity when the lid is closed against the base, wherein a pill that is placed in the
4 cavity is crushed when the lid is closed against the base.

1 34. (Original) A pill box comprising:
2 a base comprising a bottom side and a top side, the top side having a pill storage
3 compartment, a pill cutting surface, and a pill grip coupled to the pill cutting surface;

4 a lid having a proximal end with a cam and a bottom side having a blade coupled
5 thereto, wherein the lid is coupled to the base by one or more hinges; and
6 a blade guard comprising a sheet coupled at one end to the bottom side of the
7 base, wherein the blade guard is threaded over the cam and is retractable such that it covers the
8 blade when the lid is open and retracts to expose the blade to the pill cutting surface when the lid
9 is closed.

1 35. (Original) The pill box of claim 34, wherein the pill grip comprises a first
2 holding arm and a second holding arm for adjustably centering a pill on the pill cutting surface
3 into alignment with the blade.

1 36. (Original) The pill box of claim 35, wherein the first holding arm
2 comprises a first portion that is rigidly coupled to the pill cutting surface and a second region that
3 is flexibly coupled to the first portion, and wherein the second holding arm comprises a first
4 portion that is rigidly coupled to the pill cutting surface and a second portion that is flexibly
5 coupled to the first portion, the first portion of the first holding arm parallel to the first portion of
6 the second holding arm, the second portion of the first holding arm and the second portion of the
7 second holding arm inwardly biased toward one another.

1 37. (Original) The pill box of claim 34, wherein the bottom side of the lid
2 comprises a first wall having a channel formed along its length and a second wall with a channel
3 formed along its length, wherein the first and second walls run parallel with the each other and
4 the blade, and wherein the channels face each other.

1 38. (Original) The pill box of claim 37, wherein the channels in the first and
2 second walls receive the blade guard.

1 39. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 34, wherein the lid comprises a
2 programmable pill counter.

1 40. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 34, wherein the base comprises a
2 programmable pill counter.

1 41. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 34, wherein the base comprises a
2 cavity, and the lid comprises a corresponding protuberance that is sized to fill the cavity when
3 the lid is closed against the base, wherein a pill that is placed in the cavity is crushed when the
4 lid is closed against the base.

1 42. (cancelled)

1 43. (cancelled)

1 44. (cancelled)

1 45. (Withdrawn) The hand-held container of claim 42, wherein a color
2 combination comprising one or more colors indicates that the container comprises a pill crusher.

1 46. (Withdrawn) The hand-held container of claim 42, wherein a color
2 combination comprising one or more colors indicates that the container comprises a pill counter.

1 47. (Withdrawn) The hand-held container of claim 42, wherein a color
2 combination comprising one or more colors indicates that the container comprises a pill counter
3 and a pill crusher.

1 48. (Withdrawn) The hand-held container of claim 42, wherein a color
2 combination comprising one or more colors indicates that the container comprises a pill splitter
3 and a pill counter.

1 49. (Withdrawn) The hand-held container of claim 42, wherein a color
2 combination comprising one or more colors indicates that the container comprises a pill crusher
3 and a pill monitoring timer.

1 50. (Withdrawn) The hand-held container of claim 42, wherein a color
2 combination comprising one or more colors indicates that the container comprises a pill splitter,
3 a pill crusher, and a pill counter.

1 51. (previously presented) A kit comprising:
2 one or more pills; and
3 a pill box comprising:
4 a base having a pill cutting surface and a pill grip;
5 a lid connected to the base, the lid having a blade; and
6 a retractable blade guard engaging the lid such that movement of the lid
7 alone is directly translated into movement of the blade guard.

1 52. (Original) The kit of claim 51 further comprising instructions for use
2 according to a method of splitting the one or more pills, the method comprising:
3 placing one of the one or more pills on the pill cutting surface such that it is
4 secured by the pill grip;
5 closing the lid against the base such that the retractable blade guard exposes the
6 blade to the pill and the blade slices through the pill; and
7 opening the lid to remove the split pill such that the retractable blade guard
8 returns to its original position covering the blade.

1 53. (Original) The kit of claim 51, wherein the blade guard comprises a
2 flexible strip of material that is substantially impermeable to the blade.

1 54. (Original) The kit of claim 53, wherein the blade guard comprises a
2 plastic material.

1 55. (Original) The kit of claim 53, wherein the blade guard comprises
2 metallic material.

1 56. (Original) The kit of claim 51, wherein the lid and base are connected by
2 a hinge.

1 57. (previously presented) A kit comprising:
2 one or more pills; and
3 a pill box comprising:
4 a base having a pill cutting surface and a pill grip;
5 a lid connected to the base, the lid having a blade; and
6 a retractable blade guard secured to the base and engaging the lid,
7 wherein the lid comprises a cam, and wherein the blade guard is threaded over the
8 cam.

1 58. (Original) The kit of claim 51, wherein the pill grip comprises a first
2 holding arm and a second holding arm for adjustably centering a pill on the pill cutting surface
3 into alignment with the blade.

1 59. (currently amended) The kit of claim 51, wherein the first holding arm
2 comprises a first portion that is rigidly coupled to the pill cutting surface and a second region that
3 is flexibly coupled to the first portion, and wherein the second holding arm comprises a first
4 portion that is rigidly coupled to the pill cutting surface and a second portion that is flexibly
5 coupled to the first portion, the first portion of the first holding arm parallel to the first.

1 60. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 51, wherein a top side of the lid comprises a
2 thumb press portion.

1 61. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 51, wherein a retention lip extends from a
2 distal end of the base for holding the base in position while opening and closing the lid.

1 62. (Withdrawn) A pill box comprising:
2 a base having a pill cutting surface and a pill grip;

3 a lid connected to the base, the lid having a blade; and
4 a retractable blade guard slideably secured to the lid, the blade guard comprising a
5 raised region that slides over the blade.

1 63. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 62, wherein the raised region of the
2 blade guard forms a channel that is substantially perpendicular to a top of the lid and wherein the
3 blade guard further comprises at least one wing extending laterally from the raised region.

1 64. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 63, wherein the lid comprises at least
2 one track, and wherein an end of the at least one wing is fitted into the track and slides along the
3 track.

1 65. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 63, wherein the base comprises two
2 ramped walls on either side of the pill cutting surface, the two ramped walls substantially parallel
3 to each other and continuing at an upward angle from a distal portion of the base.

1 66. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 65, wherein the lid is connected by
2 hinges to the ramped walls.

1 67. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 65, wherein the at least one wing
2 comprises a raised wingtip at its end, wherein when the lid is closed against the base, at least one
3 of the ramped walls makes contact with the at least one wingtip, thereby forcing the blade guard
4 to slide distally along the at least one ramped wall to expose the blade.

1 68. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 65, further comprising a compression
2 spring inserted between the blade guard and a distal end of the lid, wherein the compression
3 spring forces the blade guard to slide over the blade when the lid is raised.

1 69. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 65, further comprising a compressible
2 gel inserted between the blade guard and a distal end of the lid, wherein the gel forces the blade
3 guard to slide over the blade when the lid is raised.

1 70. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 62, wherein the lid comprises a
2 programmable pill counter.

1 71. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 62, wherein the base comprises a
2 programmable pill counter.

1 72. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 62, wherein the base comprises a
2 cavity, and the lid comprises a corresponding protuberance that is sized to fill the cavity when
3 the lid is closed against the base, wherein a pill that is placed in the cavity is crushed when the
4 lid is closed against the base.

1 73. (previously presented) A pill box comprising:
2 a base having a cutting surface;
3 a lid having a cutting device; and
4 a retractable guard operable to move in direct response to movement of the lid
5 alone so as to cover the cutting device when the lid is moved away from the base and to retract
6 and expose the cutting device when the lid is moved toward the base.

1 74. (previously presented) The pill box of claim 73, wherein the base and the
2 lid are coupled.

1 75. (previously presented) The pill box of claim 73, wherein the cutting
2 device is a blade.

1 76. (previously presented) The pill box of claim 73, wherein the lid includes
2 channels.

1 77. (previously presented) The pill box of claim 76, wherein the channels
2 guide the retractable guard.

1 78. (previously presented) The pill box of claim 73, wherein the retractable
2 guard moves linearly.

1 79. (previously presented) A pill box comprising:
2 a cutting surface;
3 a movable lid over the cutting surface;
4 a cutting device; and
5 a guard adapted to move in direct response to movement of the lid alone so as to
6 cover the cutting device when the cutting surface is moved away from the cutting surface and to
7 expose the cutting device when the cutting device is moved near the cutting surface.

1 80. (previously presented) The pill box of claim 79, wherein the cutting
2 device is a blade.

1 81. (previously presented) The pill box of claim 79, wherein the cutting
2 surface is included in a base of the pill box and the cutting device is included in a lid of the pill
3 box.

1 82. (previously presented) The pill box of claim 81, wherein the lid includes
2 channels that guide the guard.

1 83. (previously presented) The pill box of claim 79, wherein the guard moves
2 linearly.